

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office action dated October 6, 2003, Applicants respectfully request the Office to enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks. Claims 121-140 remain pending in this application. Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees (e.g., extension fees) associated with this response to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

In the Office action, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 121-123, 125-129, and 134-140 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,715,403 A to Stefik ("Stefik"); (ii) rejected claim 124 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Stefik in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,457,746 A to Dolphin ("Dolphin"); (iii) rejected claim 130 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Stefik in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,237,614 A to Weiss ("Weiss"); and (iv) rejected claims 131-133 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Stefik in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,521,815 A to Rose, Jr. ("Rose Jr.").

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above rejections for the reasons set forth below.

Specification / Title of the Invention

The Examiner has raised objection to the title of the invention. As indicated above, Applicants have amended the title to the language suggested by the Examiner, specifically, the title has been changed to "Digital Certificate Support System, Methods and Techniques for Secure Electronic Commerce Transaction and Rights Management."

Rejection of Claims 121-123, 125-129, and 134-140 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 121-123, 125-129, and 134-140 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Stefik.

Claim 121 recites, *inter alia*, a rights management method that includes (i) receiving a request from a user to access electronic content, the electronic content

having associated with it two or more alternative conditions for governing its use, and
(ii) using at least one digital certificate associated with the user to select one of the conditions.

Applicants respectfully submit that Stefik does not teach or disclose, *inter alia*, using a digital certificate associated with a user to select between two or more alternative conditions for governing the use of electronic content. Instead, the cited portions of Stefik describe a requirement that a user have an authorization certificate before exercising a particular right associated with a repository containing a digital work (see, e.g., Office Action at page 5, citing Stefik, col. 31 lines 18-21 and FIG. 18, step 1801). There is no indication that the authorization certificate is used to **select** between two or more **alternative** conditions for governing use of electronic content. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 121 is not anticipated by Stefik.

Claims 122-123 and 125-129 are dependent on Claim 121, and are thus allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with Claim 121.

Claim 134 recites a computer program product that includes instructions operable to evaluate a digital certificate to determine whether, and under which of two or more conditions, a user is authorized to access a piece of electronic content.

Applicants respectfully submit that Stefik does not teach or disclose, *inter alia*, a computer program product that includes instructions for evaluating a digital certificate to determine whether, and under which of two or more conditions, a user is authorized to access a piece of electronic content. Instead, the cited portions of Stefik describe a requirement that a user have an authorization certificate before exercising a particular right associated with a repository containing a digital work (see, e.g., Office Action at page 5, citing Stefik, col. 31 lines 18-21 and FIG. 18, step 1801). There is no indication that the authorization certificate is used to determine under which of two or more conditions a user is authorized to access a piece of electronic content. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 134 is not anticipated by Stefik.

Claims 135-140 are dependent on Claim 134, and are thus allowable for at least

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the reasons set forth above in connection with Claim 134.

Rejection of Claims 124 and 130-133 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 124 and 130-133 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stefik in view of Dolphin (claim 124), Weiss (claim 130), and Rose, Jr. (claims 131-133).

However, all of the claims subject to these rejections are ultimately dependent on Claim 121, and are thus allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with Claim 121.

Conclusion

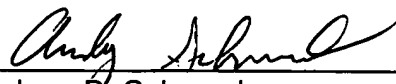
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in allowable form, and respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and the timely allowance of the claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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